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HANDLING INDICATOR

CA-2586 GD/H

NO.

TO : Amconsul NASSAU
Amembassy LONDON

MAY 2 10 13 AM '69

FROM : Department of State DATE:

SUBJECT : Bahamas Fisheries Act and Negotiations concerning Traditional Fishing Rights

REF :

As a result of the proclamation of the Bahamas Fisheries Act and pursuant to discussions held with you in Washington, 28 March, there follows the substantive portion of a letter to be delivered to the Governor of the Bahama Islands for transmittal to the Prime Minister or other appropriate GOBI official inviting representatives of the GOBI for negotiations concerning traditional fishing rights in the contiguous fishery zone of the Bahama Islands. The Department suggests that the post transmit the letter under cover of a communication from the Consul General to the Governor. (FYI: Prior to the issuance of the Despatch delegating certain foreign relations powers to GOBI, the Department believes it is appropriate to handle this matter through the Governor. If foreign affairs powers are officially delegated to GOBI prior to actual delivery of the letter, it should be addressed to the Prime Minister rather than the Governor. END FYI)

"The United States Government has received notification of the enactment of the Bahama Fisheries Act, 1969, which establishes in the Bahama Islands a fisheries zone of 9 miles contiguous to the territorial sea. It is further noted that this legislation, under Section 17, makes provision for the continuation of traditional fishing by certain foreign vessels.

MAY 2 FI 1 33

FORM 10-64 DS-323

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☐ In ☒ Out

Drafted by:	Drafting Date:	Phone No.:	Contents and Classification Approved by:
S/FW:LCDR [illegible]redrick:rmh	4-30-69	2927	S/FW:DLMcKernan

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Int.(BCF) - Mr. Wilson(in [illegible])
L/SPA - Mr. Oxman
L/ARA - Mr. Liebliche
EUR/BMI - Mr. Cheslaw

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TO : Amconsul NASSAU
INFO : Amembassy LONDON

Since nationals and vessels of the United States have in the past fished in the area between 3 miles and 12 miles off the coast of the Bahama Islands, the United States would welcome the opportunity to hold discussions with the Government of the Bahama Islands in the near future regarding traditional fishing rights in the area. Should this be agreeable to the Government of the Bahama Islands, the United States Government would be prepared to participate in such discussions in early July 1969, or at a later date if more convenient to the Government of the Bahama Islands, either in Nassau or Washington as deemed desirable by the Government of the Bahama Islands. If the Government of the Bahama Islands would prefer Washington, the United States Government would be pleased to invite representatives of the Government of the Bahama Islands to Washington for discussions leading to the conclusion of an agreement between our governments on traditional fishing rights in the Bahamian contiguous fishery zone."

In delivering above/letter and at the post's discretion it should be noted that in all such fishery negotiations it is the practice of USG to have a limited number of industry advisors on the delegation.

As a matter of courtesy, the British Embassy in Washington is being informed of these proposed negotiations.

ROGERS

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